

## Rep. Baird Helps Secure \$Billions in Meth-Related Federal Funding for FY07 (June 29, 2006)

Washington, D.C. - Congressman Brian Baird, a national leader in the fight against methamphetamine, today helped secured billions of dollars for meth-related programs in the Fiscal Year 2007 Science, State, Justice, Commerce (SSJC) Appropriations bill that passed the House. This year's bill provides \$2.6 billion to assist state and local law enforcement in fighting crime - a \$1.1 billion increase above the President's budget request. The bill is now headed to the Senate for its approval.

The President's budget proposed 80 percent cuts to programs that our local law enforcement rely on to fight meth. As a co-founder of the congressional Meth Caucus, I helped form a bipartisan coalition that vigorously worked to restore this critical funding. I am pleased to say that we were largely successful. This is good news for our law enforcement and bad news for meth dealers and cooks," Congressman Baird said.

The meth-related funding Congressman Baird helped secure in today's appropriations bill includes:

\$570,545,000 for the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) program

This is a 17 percent increase above the program's FY06 funding level (\$478 million) and five times the amount President Bush requested for the program in his FY07 budget (\$102 million). COPS funding helps law enforcement agencies across America meet an ever-increasing range of community policing challenges, expand cooperation between law enforcement agencies, and enhance public safety - all of which are crucial to the anti-meth fight.

Included in this year's COPS funding is \$99 million for Meth Hot Spot grants - a nearly \$59 million increase above the President's budget request for that program, and the exact funding level authorized in the recently passed Combat Meth Epidemic Act of 2005, which Congressman Baird helped write. The Hot Spots program is vital to a broad range of anti-meth initiatives carried out by states and local law enforcement, and helps state and local law enforcement stop meth cooks and deal with the toxic waste created by meth labs.

FY07 COPS funding has been specifically earmarked for the Washington State Meth Initiative and Washington State University's Outreach and Research Center for the Study of Methamphetamine and Other Drugs of Abuse, although specific dollar allocations for both programs have yet to be determined.

Funding for the Washington State Meth Initiative will help train and equip additional law enforcement personnel and help the state's anti-meth efforts reach additional counties and tribal jurisdictions. The Initiative received \$2 million in FY06. Funding for WSU's Outreach and Research Center will be used hire two additional world-class faculty and associated research staff to support and complement WSU's substance abuse research in Spokane.

1/2 \$635,077,000 for the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grants (Byrne-JAG grants) program

This is a 35 percent increase from the program's FY06 funding level. The President proposed entirely eliminating the grant programs in his FY07 budget request. Congressman Baird also helped fight the Administration's proposal to eliminate the Byrne-JAG program in FY06. Byrne-JAG grants help state and local law enforcement agencies, including those in Southwest Washington, fund important programs like meth task forces. The funding level includes \$445 million for JAG formula grants and \$115 for discretionary grants.

1/2 \$40 million for Drug Court programs

This is \$30 million above the FY06 funding level. Drug courts handle cases involving drug-addicted, nonviolent offenders through an extensive supervision and treatment program. In exchange for successful completion of the program, the court may dismiss the original charge, reduce or set aside a sentence, offer some lesser penalty, or offer a combination of these. For more than a decade, a number of drug courts have been extremely effective in stemming the tide of addiction in some of the most meth-affected areas of the nation. In Southwest Washington, Cowlitz, Clark, and Thurston Counties all have drug courts.

1/2 \$1.963 billion for the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA)

This is a \$15 million increase from the President's FY07 budget request. This funding includes \$1 million to support the DEA's efforts to combat international meth trafficking. Additionally, DEA will receive \$20 million under the Office of Justice Programs to assist state and local law enforcement with proper removal and disposal of hazardous materials at clandestine meth labs.

Today's SSJC appropriations bill included important language supporting the DEA's effort to create a web site listing the addresses of properties where meth labs or chemical dumpsites have been found. The web site will provide owners and renters with notice that a property may once have been used to produce meth and that there may be potential toxic hazards within the property.

The bill also included language stipulating the new clandestine lab training facility at the DEA Academy will be completed in the fall of 2007. This new facility, funded in FY05, will improve DEA's ability to train federal, state, local, and foreign law enforcement on the latest techniques in clan lab detection, enforcement, and safety. DEA has trained approximately 10,500 law enforcement personnel since 1998 to conduct investigations and safely dismantle seized meth labs.

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Congressman Baird co-founded the bipartisan Congressional Caucus to Fight and Control Methamphetamine in 2000. The Meth Caucus's mission is to educate other Members of Congress about the dangers of meth addiction and work together on legislative approaches to solving the problem. Prior to coming to Congress, Congressman Baird was a clinical psychologist who worked with meth addicts, learning firsthand the destructive potential of the drug.

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